



660 North Street, Suite 300
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
Phone: 601-359-1386
Fax: 601-359-1349
www.mfc.ms.gov



December 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MFC EMPLOYEES WIN AWARDS AT MFA MEETING	2
NEW MFA OFFICERS	2
DECEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS...	3
THANK YOU.....	3
DISTRICT TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR.....	3
TREE KNOWLEDGE	4
LETTER FROM STATE FORESTER MORGAN	5
TOYOTA ARBOR DAY	6
MFC & SURGE.....	7
NWD FUN WALK	8
MFC... OUT & ABOUT ...	9
SAFETY FIRST	10



MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926



GlitterBall.com

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Mississippi Facts

- ◆ Great Britain took over the area in 1763 after the French and Indian Wars, ceding it to the U.S. in 1783 after the Revolution. Spain did not relinquish its claim until 1798, and in 1810 the U.S. annexed West Florida from Spain, including what is now southern Mississippi.
- ◆ The highest point in Mississippi is Woodall Mountain at 806 feet and the lowest is the Gulf of Mexico at sea level.
- ◆ First explored for Spain by Hernando de Soto, who discovered the Mississippi River in 1540, the region was later claimed by France. In 1699, a French group under Sieur d'Iberville established the first permanent settlement near present-day Ocean Springs.

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (*in Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission
822 SCR 115 South
Raleigh, MS 39153

December 2011



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION EMPLOYEES WIN AWARDS AT THE MFA ANNUAL MEETING

At this year's MFA Annual Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, MFC employees were recognized for their outstanding commitment to the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

The Outstanding Inspector of the Year award honors an ATFS volunteer inspector. Outstanding inspectors give their time to ATFS and perform considerable outreach efforts to educate the public and private landowners on the benefits of sustainable forestry. Garron Hicks, Service Forester

in Oxford, won the Tree Farm Inspector of the Year for Mississippi

Other MFC employees to receive awards for their outstanding achievements were: Drew Stafford of NWD for Outstanding Youth Forestry Leader, David Rogers for District Tree Farm Inspection of the Year for the Northeast District, Jim Strong for the Northwest District, Michael Crowell for the South Central District, Baxter Rowley for Southwest District, James Lovelace for

Southeast District, James Floyd for the Capital District and Russell Swords for the East Central District.



MFA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

New officers were elected at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

- ☺ Wayne Tucker, Jackson, president
- ☺ Ken Durand, Columbus, 1st vice president
- ☺ Mike Wiseman, Winona, 2nd vice president
- ☺ Gary Blair, Brookhaven, treasurer
- ☺ Roy V. West, Jr., Laurel, past president



Left to right, Mike Wiseman, Gary Blair, Tedrick Ratcliff, MFA executive vice president, Ken Durand, Wayne Tucker and Roy West, Jr.





THANK YOU!!!

To All,

This letter is to express our profound gratitude and appreciation for the work done by the Mississippi Forestry Commission on October 9, 2011, on our place in Avalon, MS.

Mac Ables and Keith Boone with the Mississippi Forestry Commission (Holmes Co. Div.) did an outstanding job in containing the fire and minimizing the damage. These two gentlemen represent their profession well. We have nothing but praise for these men. Their caring effort made a very difficult situation much easier to handle.

We are lucky to have such professional and well-trained fire personnel to protect our communities. Many, many thanks!

Sincerely,

*Billy Brunson and family
327 CR 195
Carrollton, MS 38917*



DISTRICT TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR

- David Rogers, Northeast District
- Emmette Earl Alford, Southwest District
- Joseph s. Weston, East Central District
- John and Maggie Harper, South Central District
- Henry and Kay Hudson, Southeast District
- Roy Manning, Capital District



December's Birthdays



Jessie Goff -1
Paul Thornton -1
Robert Ponder -3
Frankie Butler -4
Melissa Rea -4
David Hamilton -5
Elisha Williams -5
Ted Harris -6
Charlie Bass -7
Dwight Brown -7
Herbert Coker -7
Otis Vanison -7
Tracy Mooneyhan -8
Vincent Smith -8
Jessie Brown -9
Benjamin Ford -9
Randell Varnado -10
John Locke -11
Samuel Gural -13
Samuel Morgan -13
Herman Watson -13
Stuart Sellers -14
Dewitt Vowell -14
Preston Smith -16
Bobby Stevens -17
William Fuller -18
Duane Hodges -18
James Oswalt -18
John Rhodes -18
Joe Miles -19
Mark Taylor -20
Jesse Warfield -21
Garron Hicks -22
Steven Anders -23
Johnathan Lewis -24
Michael Alsworth -25
Angela Bessonette -27
Jared Bynum -27
Wesley Howard -28
Billy Powers -29
Jean Teasley -30
Mark Williamson -30
Randy Wilson -30
Anna Whatley -31



Holiday

Holiday Schedule
for

Christmas 2011 -
December 23rd
and 26th.



New Year's 2012 -
December 30, 2011
and January 2,
2012.



Season's Greetings

Mississippi's forests cover 19.6 million acres or 65% of the State, an increase in forest land of about 6% since 1994.



My leaves are bipinnately compound, odd pinnately compound alternate and deciduous. They have 8-25 branchlets with 30 to 60 leaflets per branchlets. The are 20.0" long and each leaflet is .38" to .5" inches long. Their margin is ciliate and entire. Their apex is rounded to obtuse and the base is inequilateral. They are sickle-shaped and green to yellow-green above and a paler green below. Their surface is glabrous above is below.

My twigs are slender, green in color and their surface is slightly zig-zag branching with multiple raised light gray lenticels.

My buds are rounded, brown in color with few scales.

My fruit is consider a legume and ranges in size from 4.0" to 8.0". It is oblong-pointed and flattened in shape. They are green in color and turn a gray brown by the end of the season.

My flower is monoeocious, pink with red tips in color, threadlike and range in size from 5.0" to 7.0".

TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?

My bark is smooth, gray to brownish gray with faint vertical striations.

I form a single or multiple stem and at maturity reach 25'. I have a rapid growth rate and can reach 20' in 20 years. My life span is moderate, around 50 years. I am intolerant to shade, have a medium tolerance to drought and fire.

I prefer urban areas and roadsides with a fine to coarse soil texture. I like the soil pH to be between 4.8 and 7.3. My range is exotic, but I have become naturalized throughout much of the South. In Mississippi, I am found throughout the state.

I attract bees, birds and butterflies.

I have no timber value.

I am a frequent choice of homeowners with my fine texture, fragrant and showy flowers. Two of my cultivars are disease resistant. I am subject vascular wilt disease and webworms.

I was introduced to the U.S. from Asia in 1745. My dried leaves were used

as a teas substitute, my cooked flowers eaten as a vegetable. A gummy extract from me is used as a plaster for abscesses, boils, tec., and also a retentive in fractures and sprains.

I am listed by a Exotic Pest Plant Council as a Category 1 species, defined as an invasive exotic plant that is disrupting native plant communities.

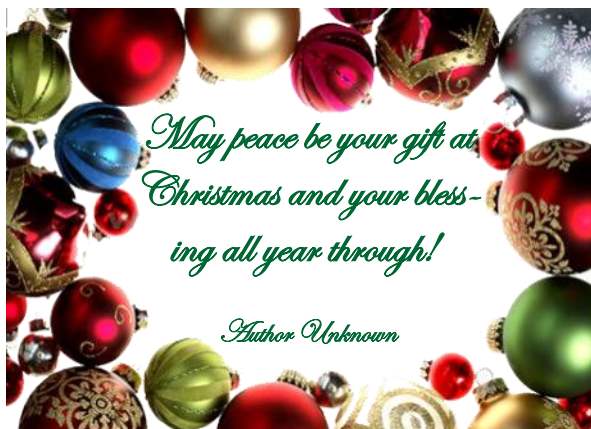
Who Am I?



Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for October 2011 was the Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida L.) Check out page 179 in the Mississippi Trees book.



Flower of the Cornus florida L.



Author Unknown



A LETTER FROM STATE FORESTER MORGAN

To The MFC Team,

Happy Holidays everyone! I trust that all is well with you and your loved ones and that you and your family had a safe and joyful Thanksgiving.

Time is flying by! Christmas will soon be upon us and a new year will be arriving shortly thereafter. It seems like it was just yesterday that we were celebrating Independence Day.

I want to thank each of you of your contributions toward a successful 2011. Your hard work allowed for many accomplishments this year which helped us remain a leader in forest protection and management. By working together as a team, we have the best chance both individually and MFC as a whole to have a safe and successful 2012.

As you continue to enjoy the holidays please do so safely. Practice firework safety and be sure to have adult supervision for any children that are involved in firework displays. Also, double check to ensure that your holiday decorations are not creating a fire hazard and do not overload your electrical extension cords.

As always, drive defensively and allow extra time to compensate for the increase in highway traffic.

Thank you again and God's blessings to all,

*Charlie Morgan
State Forester*

PAMM CONFERENCE 2012

You are cordially invite to attend the upcoming PAMM conference: Arboriculture: A Professional Approach to Working with Trees on January 12 - 13, 2012.

Any and all professionals working for the care of trees is invited to attend.

PAAM has invited experts to discuss a multitude of topics: lightning protection, chainsaw safety, tree appraisal, OSHA regulations, tree health assessment, and many more.

For more information, see the MFWC website, Calendar of Events page.



FOREST DISTRIBUTION

Did you know that of the 82 counties in Mississippi, 31 are estimated to be 50 -75% forested and 33 counties are $\geq 75\%$ forested. Eight counties are estimated to be $< 25\%$ forested and are located in the heavily agriculture-dominated Delta portion of the State.

Personnel Personals



- ◆ Please keep Melody Amis and her family in your prayers. Her mother, Vesta Pauline Guynn, passed away on Monday, November 28, 2011. Melody is the Jasper County Administrative Assistant.



Moving On

- * Matthew A. Couch, Pilot, Capital District
- * Michael Hocutt, Forest Ranger, Grenada County, Northwest District
- * Eric Hambrick, Purchasing Agent, State Office
- * Michael Browning, Forest Ranger, Union County, Northeast District

December 2011

Page 6



TOYOTA ARBOR DAY

Nov. 17, 2011

GOV. BARBOUR DECLARES TODAY TOYOTA ARBOR DAY

Schoolchildren to receive seedlings to recognize company's commitment to Mississippi, environment

BLUE SPRINGS – Gov. Haley Barbour declared today as Toyota Arbor Day to celebrate the opening of the car manufacturer's Blue Springs plant and its commitment to the environment and Mississippi.

To celebrate Toyota Arbor Day, public school districts, private schools and religious schools will be given tree seedlings in January to distribute to their students for the planting season. Students are encouraged to plant the trees on Feb. 10, the official Arbor Day in Mississippi as established by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to teach students about the environment and service to their communities," Gov. Barbour said. "Students can plant trees as a class or student council project on school grounds, city parks, nursing homes or other community facilities. Also, students can take the trees home for planting. This is a great opportunity to emphasize the importance of community service."

The state and Toyota created Toyota Arbor Day to offset the loss of trees from construction of the company's manufacturing facility.

School officials may request the number of trees needed for students by Dec. 15. The trees will be delivered to local districts and independent schools by the Mississippi Forestry Commission. To order seedlings, school officials may go to the Mississippi Forestry Commission website www.mfc.ms.gov, click on the Toyota Arbor Day Event Icon, and complete and submit the form. A confirmation email will be sent.

"Toyota's start of production marks a new chapter for Mississippi," Gov. Barbour said. "We are committed to bringing high-skilled, high-paying jobs to our state so these children and their children can stay in Mississippi and raise their families here."

TOYOTA ARBOR DAY EVENT

Schools click here to
to fill out your seedling
order form





MFC & SURGE SALUTE THE OUTDOORS

The Mississippi Forestry Commission teamed with the Mississippi Surge in a salute to the great outdoors, when the Surge hosts the Huntsville Havoc at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum.

As part of the festivities Smokey Bear will take part in the pregame activities. Fans can also win a kayak, courtesy of Everything Kayak. "Our players are like everyone else who like to fish, hunt, hike, golf, ride bikes or anything outdoors," coach Jeff Bes said. "We know it is a big part of life here on the Coast. But we do want everyone to come inside for a few hours Saturday night," he added with a laugh.

In addition to information from the Mississippi Forestry Commission, fans also received information on seafood safety from the Mississippi Seafood Marketing and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.



- * Terry Johnson, Forest Ranger, Marshall County, Northeast District
- * Millard Kinstley, Forest Ranger, Claiborne County, Capital District
- * Kyle Cumbest, Forest Ranger, Jackson County, Southeast District
- * James Johnson, Forest Ranger, Forrest County, Southeast District



Please keep Leake County Service Forester Wayne Ornsbey and his family in your prayers as they experienced a devastating house fire and suffered a tremendous loss at the end of October.



Gone Fish-in'

James A. Bush, Service Forester for Covington County retired with 25 year of service on October 31, 2011.

SERVICE CERTIFICATES FOR NWD

The Northwest District recognized nine MFC employees with Service Certificates for the 2011 calendar year.

5 Years

- Lyndol Giles

10 Years

- Jacob Hamilton

15 Years

- Wayne Bailey
- David Butler
- Charles Clolinger
- Cliff Sewell

30 Years

- Lynn Conley
- Larry Reed

35 Years

- Steve Burgess



WALNUT TREES MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND CLIMATE CHANGE

ScienceDaily (Nov. 29, 2011)
— Warmer, drier summers and extreme weather events considered possible as the climate changes would be especially troublesome -- possibly fatal -- for walnut trees, according to research at Purdue University. [>full story](#)



NWD FUN WALK

The Northwest District hosted another "Fun Walk" on November 10, 2011, to continue the awareness of and encourage MFC employees to live a healthy lifestyle at home and at work. Handouts were also given to participants: "The Benefits of Walking" and "Make Your Walk a Workout" highlight the many health benefits of walking and how to make your walk more challenging. Studies show walking can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke; reduce high cholesterol; lower blood pressure and lower many other health risks. This is the second quarterly Fun Walk that the NW District Safety Committee introduced in August. The NWD has encouraged MFC employees to voluntarily participate in these 'Fun Walks'. Twenty-eight NWD employees participated in the three Fun Walks held across the District.





MFC ... OUT AND ABOUT



MFC display at a forest landowner workshop in Lee County held at the Area MSU Extension Service Field office in Verona, MS south of Tupelo, MS. Seakers were James Floyd, John Kushla, James Henderson and George Byrd. George talked about the MS Forest Stewardship and Tree Farm programs. During the lunch time period, the new MS Forest Stewardship DVD was played.

Forest landowner workshop in Baldwyn, MS and a on site visit to the Prentiss Co. Forestry Assoc. President's property. Attendees included landowners, consultants and agency foresters. Many landowners had never used a forester or had forest management plan of their property. Great field work for the landowners to learn when to determine the timing of thinning their pine plantations for the first time.



Smokey Bear with Bobber and Sparky in the Taylor Community for a Safety Awareness event in Lafayette County. MFC had a table set up with Firewise and wildfire prevention materials and the Lafayette Co. fire unit was made available by Garron Hicks. Estimated 170-200 people visited the small community event.

NEW FIREWISE COMMUNITY IN MS

Noxapater, Mississippi -- Because of its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire, Noxapater, Mississippi has earned Firewise Communities/USA recognition from the National Firewise Communities Program.

Noxapater worked with the Mississippi Forestry Commission to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment and develop a plan to address safety concerns. Residents then worked together to implement the plan.

"Noxapater, Mississippi took a great leap forward in preparing for wildfires. I had great local cooperation on the Commission's portion of the project. Noxapater is on the national Firewise Communities map now and ready to move forward with wildfire protection", said Leslie Blackwell, Mississippi Forestry Commission Firewise Coordinator.

Noxapater, Mississippi is the fourth community in Mississippi to be recognized as Firewise Communities/USA, joining many other communities nationwide that have been recognized since the program's inception in 2002.





Safety First . . .

CHRISTMAS SAFETY TIPS

It's hard to realize that another Christmas season is almost upon us. It seems like last week we were preparing for the start of 2011.

According to the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) every year there are about 12,500 people treated for falls, cuts and shocks, which are related to the holiday season. Candles are responsible for 11,600 fires every year, resulting in 150 deaths, 1,200 injuries and \$173 million in property loss. Christmas trees fires cause approximately 300 fires each year, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and more than \$10 million in property loss and damage.

As you are sprucing up you home this season, keep an eye out for these common holiday trip-ups, fire hazards and other safety snafus.

Trees:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from

fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

Lights:

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Use only lights that have plugs containing fuses.

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.

- If using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.

- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples (not nails or tacks) to hold strings in place. Or, run

strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).

- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect against electric shock. Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can also be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Candles and Other Decorations:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

- Keep burning candles within sight.

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles out of reach of children and pets.

- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of



children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

- To avoid lung irritation, follow container directions carefully while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

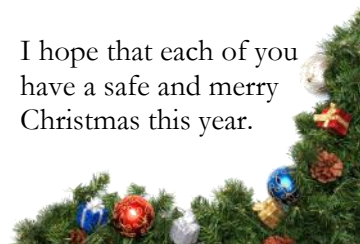
Fireplaces:

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that, if eaten, can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting. Keep them away from children.

- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. Wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely, resulting in a flash fire.

- Place a screen around your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby flammable materials.

I hope that each of you have a safe and merry Christmas this year.



First Time, Every Time